



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

REVIEWS.

Spanish Literature; An Elementary Handbook, with Indices, etc. By H. Butler Clarke, M.A. London: Sonnenschein & Co. New York: Macmillan & Co. 1893. Pp. xii., 288.

WE are inclined to think that this book really meets a long-felt want. There must always be a considerable number of persons, college students and others, who will desire an account of Spanish literature less detailed than Ticknor's three volumes and more full than the primer in Harper's "Half Hour" series. Such a book has been lacking hitherto. Outside of Spain the Germans have given us the really important contributions of Schack and Wolf, and the French a larger number of less important writers, among whom we may name, *pro memoria*, Dozy and Morel-Fatio for the earlier period, and Hubbard and Tannenberg for contemporary literature. But no book in French or German quite serves the purpose of this one, and in Spanish itself we hardly know what book we should commend to the college student. Certainly it would not be the *Historia Compendia de la Literatura Española*, by Arpa y Lopez, the je-june professor of San Isidore.

The twenty-one chapters of Mr. Clarke's book are chiefly taken up, as is natural, with the classical period. After a brief but judicious introduction on the formation of the Spanish nation and language, he begins his history proper with the heroic *Poema de myo Cid*, here, as elsewhere, offering characteristic passages in the original Spanish, with a literal translation appended at the foot of the page. These Spanish extracts are printed with exceptional care, and we have read them without discovering so much as a misplaced accent. *Giminez* is printed for *Jiminez* on page 277, and there are a few words in the older extracts whose antique spelling

one might be disposed to question without collation with the original editions. Meantime Mr. Clarke deserves the benefit of the doubt.

In his chapters on the Romances of Chivalry and on the Ballads there is little that is original, or claims to be, but the condensation is judicious, and the impression left on the reader will be clear and reasonably correct. We find then a short chapter on Catalan which may surprise us in view of the statement in the introduction (p. 6), that, "in literature as well as in ethnology and language, the Catalans belong rather to Provence than to Spain." But Catalan is evidently a favorite child of Mr. Clarke's study. His chapter on the origin of the drama, though short, is well digested, and in some of its judgments original. The interesting extract from Rojas' *Viage Entretenido*, on the life of strolling players, forms an important pendant to the more familiar one from Cervantes' prologue to his own drama, and deserves the notice of students of the early stage.

We must congratulate Mr. Clarke also on his graceful selections from the lyric poets of this early period, Santillana, Mena and Manrique. He considers the *Coplas* of the last among the finest verses of the world, and "as an elegy unsurpassed." Fine as Manrique's verses are, this judgment will seem a little extravagant. He prints nearly a fifth of the poem, which indeed, for ethical content, for restrained power, and free versification has not been surpassed in Spain, though we think it has in England.

Less satisfactory to our mind is the chapter on the *Nóvel*. Considerable as is the space which he gives to the *Celestina*, which he is disposed, we think justly, to attribute in its entirety to Rojas, we think that he underestimates its importance as the true origin of the *Novela Picaresca*. The model of this interesting style of fiction he finds in the *Lazarillo*, which we should regard rather as a second step in the development of the essential idea first brought out in the *Celestina*. To develop this fully might carry us too far afield. We reserve it for another occasion. The *Novela Picaresca*, the

forerunner of the naturalistic studies of the present day, deserves a more careful analysis than it has yet found. That its "popularity died out, never to return, on the first appearance of the modern novel," is true in one sense. In another sense it is misleading. The aim of this school of early Spanish fiction was closely allied to the aim of the most popular of recent movements in French fiction and one of the strongest currents in the most recent English novelistic literature.

Of the mystic and religious authors Mr. Clarke writes with a sympathetic appreciation that is grateful and somewhat rare nowadays. But he is quite right in dissociating their beauties of style from their theological opinions. They wrote beautifully because they belonged to their age and enjoyed its literary environment, not because their eyes were fixed on the kingdom of heaven. Yet religion wove itself more intimately into this Spanish life than has been seen since or elsewhere, and hence it has become relatively more important in their literature. Mr. Clarke turns from these to the historians, among whom he gives Solis well merited praise for his *Conquest of Mexico*, which deserves more notice than it gets from our students.

A chapter on the poets, where Boscan is snubbed and Garcilaso receives the praise of successful imitation, and another on Spanish proverbs bring us to Cervantes. But though this and the following section, on Lope, Quevedo and Calderon, are the most useful part of the book, there is little in them that calls for special notice. There is a statement on page 151, however, that seems strange. We are told that "at the end of the sixteenth century literature, with the exception of the drama, had become stereotyped; even the picaresque novel was losing its freshness, and as yet no genius had sprung up to create a new form." This is to explain the success of *Don Quixote*. But of the so called picaresque novels only *Lazarillo* and *Guzman* had appeared at that time, the latter in 1599. They continued for some time the most popular form of literature, and *Don Quixote* remained unique. So that from several points of view the statement

of the text is inaccurate, and more that is said of Don Quixote is open to like criticism.

We heartily agree with Mr. Clarke in giving Quevedo the honor of a separate chapter. Spanish literature has seemed to too many to be made up of Cervantes, Lope, Calderon, and "minor writers." We note, too, with pleasure the statement that, "If authors are to be judged by single works, neither Lope nor even Calderon is the greatest Spanish playwright." That title would belong rather to Tirso de Molina or Alarcón. The chapter on these "Dramatists of the Golden Age" is one of the best in the book, especially the thoughtful pages at its close on the relations of the Spanish drama to that of France.

We must pass rapidly over the last chapters. That on contemporary literature is most interesting and least satisfactory. Mr. Clarke has had here few predecessors, and his attention has been more absorbed by the earlier period. He hardly does justice to the modern novelists,¹ and if the poets fare better, it is at the expense of the essayists. This we rather regret, for the majority of students who will use this book will probably find, or might find, the contemporary literature of more direct interest to them than the classical, and men are more apt to maintain an interest in what is living and growing before their eyes than in a past which only an effort of the imagination can make alive. Yet most college study of modern languages is subject to the same criticism. Our text-books foster, with a few bright exceptions, the notion that German literature ends with Heine, French with Victor Hugo, and Spanish, possibly, with Moratin. Something to correct this Mr. Clarke has given us in his helpful "Index of Authors and Editions Recommended for a course of Spanish Reading," which cannot fail to be of

¹ The best account of recent Spanish fiction in English that we have met is contained in an article by Mr. Rollo Ogden, in the *Cosmopolitan* (1892), and in two articles, which we believe may be attributed to the same hand, in the *New York Evening Post* (1891). These may be compared with the article on "Recent Spanish Fiction," in the first number of this REVIEW.

great assistance to the book-buyer, and in his "List of Principal Authorities." We wish, too, that he might have given a short chapter to the literature of Spanish America; but the shortcomings of the book are not serious, and it is heartily to be commended to all whom it concerns. B. W. W.

History of Elections in the American Colonies. By Cortland F. Bishop, Ph.D. [*Studies in History, Economics and Public Law.* Edited by the University Faculty of Political Science of Columbia College. Volume iii., No. 1.] Columbia College, New York. 1893. 8vo., pp. v., 297.

ONE of the most gratifying indications of the good work that is doing in American history is to be found in the fact that, one by one, our great universities are following the example set by the Johns Hopkins, and issuing a series of historical studies or monographs which are simply invaluable to the students of our history, whether general or special. Harvard has such a series, or, counting the *Fag House* monographs, two such series, in which such admirable studies as Mr. Mason's *Veto Power*, and Mr. McDougal's *Fugitive Slaves*, reviewed by the present writer in another place, have appeared. Yale has recently established that excellent quarterly, *The Yale Review*, to cover the same ground. The Columbia College monographs are growing in number, and form a very valuable contribution to our historical literature. Even the ancient college of William and Mary, awaking from her long sleep, has entered the field with a quarterly devoted to Virginia genealogy and history. The value of these studies may be easily overlooked by the general reader, who is usually repelled by that very minuteness of treatment which makes them such valuable helps to the trained historical student. But the consensus of general opinion is, unfortunately, the chief bestower of fame, and so it comes to pass that the specialist who has devoted months and years to the study of an obscure and important subject is compelled to look to a very small band of fellow-workers for recognition of his labors. In the highest regions of rarefied altruism this ought to be a sufficient reward; but we are all